AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ belt ~~of claim 1,~~ for a material web producing machine, comprising:

a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices; and

a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable,

wherein the belt supports a paper web in the web producing machine.

3. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a metal having a high thermal conductivity.

4. (Original) The belt of claim 3, wherein the metal is one of stainless steel and bronze.

5. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise filaments.

6. (Original) The belt of claim 5, wherein the filaments comprise a metal.

7. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a substantially circular cross-section.

8. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a substantially rectangular cross-section.

9. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a substantially square cross-section.

10. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a substantially oval cross-section.

11. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a polygonal cross-section.

12. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a variable cross-sectional shape along their lengths.

13. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the filler comprises a plastic.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently amended) The belt of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the fluid is a liquid.

16. (Previously amended) A belt for a material web producing machine, comprising:

a plurality of long-chain strength supports arranged to form interstices;

a filler at least partially filling the interstices; and

beadlike protuberances located at peripheral regions of the belt.

17. (Original) The belt of claim 16, wherein the beadlike protuberances comprise woven long-chain strength supports.

18. (Original) The belt of claim 16, wherein the beadlike protuberances comprise the woven long-chain strength supports, at least one additional material mixture, and the filler.

19. (Previously amended) A belt for a material web producing machine, comprising:

a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices; and

a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable,

wherein the belt comprises a surface which substantially comprises the long-chain strength supports.

20. (Original) The belt of claim 19, wherein the belt is impermeable to a fluid.

21. (Previously amended) A belt for a material web producing machine, comprising:

a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices; and

a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable,

wherein the belt comprises a smooth surface which substantially comprises the long-chain strength supports covering the filler.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ belt of claim 2, ~~for a material web producing~~

~~machine, comprising:~~

~~a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices; and~~

~~a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable,~~

wherein the belt comprises a screen.

23. (Original) The belt of claim 22, wherein the screen is flexible and formed of woven long-chain strength supports.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~A~~ belt of claim 2, ~~for a material web producing machine, comprising:~~

~~a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices; and~~

~~a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable,~~

wherein the belt comprises an interwoven sheet of the long-chain strength supports.

25. (Currently amended) A process for producing a belt, comprising:

forming a sheet from a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material, the sheet comprising a plurality of interstices disposed between the long-chain strength supports; ~~and~~

filling at least a portion of the interstices with a filler, whereby the sheet is made fluid impermeable to form a sealing belt for a dryer device in a paper machine; and

at least one surface of the sealing belt is formed to expose at least a portion of the metallic material.

26. (Original) The process of claim 25, wherein the filler comprises a plastic.

27. (Original) The process of claim 25, wherein the long-chain strength supports comprise a metal.

28. (Original) The process of claim 25, wherein the filling further comprises:

dipping the sheet into a liquid filler.

29. (Original) The process of claim 25, wherein the filling further comprises:

spraying the sheet with a liquid filler.

30. (Original) The process of claim 25, further comprising:

smoothing at least one surface of the sheet after filling the sheet.

31. (Original) The process of claim 30, wherein the filler comprises a liquid.

32. (Original) The process of claim 30, wherein the smoothing comprises:

treating the at least one surface to remove a portion of the filler.

33. (Original) The process of claim 32, wherein the treating comprises grinding the at least one surface.

34. (Original) The process of claim 25, further comprising:

scraping at least one surface of the sheet after filling the sheet.

35. (Original) The process of claim 34, wherein the scraping comprises

removing a portion of the filler from the at least one surface.

36. (Original) The process of claim 25, wherein the forming further comprises:

weaving the long-chain strength supports.

37. (Previously amended) A process for producing a belt, comprising:

forming a sheet from a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material, the sheet comprising a plurality of interstices disposed between the long-chain strength supports, the forming comprising weaving the long-chain strength supports; and

filling at least a portion of the interstices with a filler, whereby the sheet is made fluid impermeable,

wherein the weaving density is adjustable based upon a desired surface requirement.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously amended) A sealing belt for a dryer in a machine for producing a material web, comprising:

a flexible woven metal screen;

the woven metal screen comprising metal filaments running in a longitudinal direction, the metal filaments crossing one another so as to form interstices; and

a filler which at least partially fills the interstices to form a fluid impermeable screen.

40. (Original) The belt of claim 39, further comprising at least two filaments

disposed within the interstices and running substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

41. (Original) The belt of claim 40, wherein the metal comprises stainless steel.

42. (Original) A process for producing a belt, comprising:

forming a sheet from a plurality of metal filaments running in a longitudinal direction, the sheet comprising a plurality of interstices disposed between filaments;

disposing metal filaments perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and within the interstices;

filling at least a portion of the interstices with a plastic filler;

scraping a portion of the filler from at least one surface of the sheet to expose the metal filaments.

43. (Previously amended) A process for producing a belt, comprising:

forming a sheet from a plurality of metal filaments running in a longitudinal direction, the sheet comprising a plurality of interstices disposed between filaments;

disposing metal filaments perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and within the interstices;

filling at least a portion of the interstices with a plastic filler;

scraping a portion of the filler from at least one surface of the sheet to expose the metal filaments;

curing the filler; and

grinding the at least one surface.

44. (Previously added) The belt of claim 39, wherein, on at least one surface of said belt, at least a portion of said metal filaments are exposed.

45. (New) A sealing belt for a dryer in a machine for supporting a material web, comprising:

a flexible woven metal screen;

the woven metal screen comprising metal filaments running in a longitudinal direction, the metal filaments crossing one another so as to form interstices; and

a filler which at least partially fills the interstices to form a fluid impermeable screen,

wherein said fluid impermeable screen is structured as a sealing belt for a dryer device to support a material web.

46. (New) A belt for a material web producing machine, comprising:

a plurality of long-chain strength supports composed of a metallic material and arranged to form interstices; and

a filler at least partially filling the interstices to make said belt fluid impermeable,

wherein said fluid impermeable screen is structured as a sealing belt for a dryer device to support a material web.

47. (New) The belt of claim 39, wherein, prior to a curing of said filler, a

portion of said filler is scraped from at least one surface of said fluid impermeable belt to expose a least a portion of said metal filaments.

48. (New) The belt of claim 39, wherein, prior to a curing of said filler, a portion of said filler is scraped from at least one surface of said fluid impermeable belt to provide a smooth surface, and, after said curing of said filler, said smooth surface is ground to expose a least a portion of said metal filaments.

49. (New) The belt of claim 39, wherein, after a curing of said filler, a portion of said filler is ground from at least one surface of said fluid impermeable belt to expose a least a portion of said metal filaments.

50. (New) The belt of claim 39, wherein, after filling the interstices, at least a portion of said metal filaments are exposed on at least one surface of said fluid impermeable belt, and the filler is subsequently cured.